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14 December 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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South Vietnam: The Huong government may soon face renewed dissidence among ethnic minorities in the central highlands, in addition to its other problems.

Y Bham, a leader of the Rhade tribe who has been in hiding since September, recently proclaimed an autonomous government in the highlands and is now reported to be seeking recognition and aid from abroad. Last month he reportedly sent appeals to fellow tribesmen, including those in government camps, for recruits to form up to two battalions.

Vietnamese officials suspect that Y Bham is operating from the Cambodian side of the border with some official Cambodian and French support. There are also reports that the Viet Cong are actively encouraging tribal disaffection, and some signs that a tacit cease-fire agreement has existed since September between the Viet Cong and Rhade tribesmen in some government camps.

there is growing sympathy for the Viet Cong in government Special Forces camps. Most tribesmen, however, still appear to be waiting to see whether the Huong government in Saigon gains any strength and whether General Khanh's recent promises of special aid to the tribes are honored.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Kashmir: Pakistan is seeking means to counter India's recent announcement of additional measures to integrate Kashmir into India.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Pakistan has already delivered a strong protest against the new integration moves, after laying down the usual propaganda barrage.

President Ayub may also call for more militant agitation in the Kashmir area itself. His need to bolster his popularity before Pakistan's presidential elections, which are scheduled for 2 January, would give him special reason for a strong stand just now. His regime is under fire for its heavy-handed suppression of student demonstrations, which seem to be spreading throughout the country.

There are likely to be good opportunities in Kashmir for developing anti-Indian agitation. Tension there could easily increase around 26 December, the first anniversary of the theft of a celebrated Muslim relic which set off religious rioting in both India and East Pakistan.

[REDACTED] Domestic conditions in India might cause the Shastri government--which still lacks the authority enjoyed by Nehru--to react sharply to any Pakistani moves.

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NOTES

USSR: Premier Kosygin's closing speech at last week's session of the Supreme Soviet reinforced the consumer orientation of the 1965 economic plan. Kosygin put off until the 1966-70 planning period proposals from the floor to increase the rate of development of ferrous metallurgy, the coal, petroleum, electric power industries, and "other branches of heavy industry." He implied that any additional resources that became available during the course of the year would be used for the development of agriculture and raising living standards.

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Israel: A move sponsored by former Prime Minister Ben-Gurion to reopen investigation of the "Lavon Affair"--a ten-year-old but still controversial security matter--has provoked a no-confidence motion in the Israeli Parliament against Prime Minister Eshkol. Eshkol will almost certainly survive, as two opposition parties have already indicated they will abstain if necessary to defeat the motion. However, the conflict may precipitate the resignation of two cabinet ministers and Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres, all of whom still support Ben-Gurion.

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*Argentina: The Peronist-dominated General Confederation of Labor (CGT) has ordered a general strike for an indefinite duration to protest the injuries and arrests resulting from its illegal rally of some 9,000 persons on 11 December. The Peronists will exploit the arrest of the CGT secretary general to gain adherents to the strike order. Whether or not the non-Peronist unions agree to support the strike, the Peronists can shut down the major industries and add to the rising tensions caused by their campaign for Peron's return before the end of the year.

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